

... per annum, in advance.

observation is applied to them, but partly also as they would be the first to acknowledge, because they are no longer in that stage of immaturity through which all great nations pass. The American people have grown, and in accordance with all human experience have grown all the more quickly under the influence of anxiety and trouble. The bones of the national character so often spoken of have come hard and firm. The most ardent critics of America written five and twenty years ago as we read Macaulay's account of the state of the English people in 1686. It is a former generation that we are now so ready to rail at, and they look upon. The rough people of the frontier has gone away two thousand miles westward, and the cities are full of travellers, men and men of culture and refinement.

—Mary Clemmer Ames' new novel is to be published in the spring. She has been at work on it for three years, which promises well for its artistic execution.

—Goethe, whom hardly any one knows except as poet and novelist, considered himself best as a man of science, and hoped his reputation would rest on that speciality.

—Luther was very fond of music. He called it "the grandest and sweetest gift of God to man." "Satan hates music," he said; "I know how it drives the evil spirit out of us. He was extremely interested in the

He was extremely interested in all natural things. Before the science of botany was dreamt of, Luther had divined the principle of vegetable life. "The principle of marriage runs through all creation," he said; "and flowers, as well as animals, are male and female." A garden called out bursts of eloquence from him; beautiful, sometimes, as a finished piece of poetry.

—The sale or manufacture in Munich of the much admired crystallized or "mother of pearl" visiting cards has been forbidden by law.

For a short time subsequent to their introduction into that city, these cards had great popularity, the demand for them being

The English papers received by the Neapolitan *citta* describe an excellent distilla-

—The Paris correspondent of a London daily paper has the following: "The star of the hour at the Italiens is the American contralto, Miss Harris, whose graceful manner and expressive countenance, combined with a voice of marvelous flexibility and sweetness, attracts

"—A rich man made his will leaving all he had to a company of his fellow-citizens to dispose of, but reserving to his right heir "such portion as pleaseth them." The heir having sued the company for his share of the property, the Judge inquired whether they wished to carry out the will of the testator, and, if so, what provision they proposed making for the heir? "He shall have a tenth part," said the company; "and we will retain for ourselves the other nine." "Take, then," said the Judge, "the tenth part to yourselves, and leave the rest to the heir; for by the will he is to have what

—A machine for making wrought iron and brass butt hinges has been invented in Paris and has lately been brought to this country. Sheet iron or sheet brass is employed, of proper thickness. The hinges are made complete for market in one single machine. Two strips of metal enter the machine on one side from coils; on the opposite side is placed a coil of wire, which enters and forms the hinge rivet, the screw holes and countersinks all being made in one operation. One hundred hinges of the smallest size leave the machine per minute, in a condition to be packed for market.

—A band of Italian brigands, twelve in number, tired of their native soil, have been for the last six months committing the most ferocious crimes in the departments of the Bouches-du-Rhône, the Maritime Alps, Var, and in the suburbs of Marseilles. They were all captured, tried before the Criminal Tribunal of Aix, and sent to toil with the stubborn oars in the galleys at Toulon for life.

—A rich but irascible old gentleman, who is passionately devoted to Mrs. Battle's favorite

the game, has cut off his son with a white marker for putting "no cards" after the announcement of his marriage.

—The editor of the Church Monthly tells a curious story of the magazine: "The periodical called the Radical is bound at the same time with the Monthly; and somehow or other forty-six copies of that periodical go bound up in the covers of the Monthly. The wolf in sheep's clothing was, however, soon detected, and the mistake has been corrected so far as has been known to us."

—The international boat race between English and American residents at Shanghai is

—Mr. Gladstone spent Christmas at Hawarden Castle. On December 23 he was watching the cutting down of a tree on the ground when a splinter flew and struck him on one of the eyes. The pain was very severe, and at first it was feared that the sight was imperiled. It has since been ascertained that the only effect will be that for a short time it will be necessary to use the eyes very sparingly.

—Professor Halford, of Melbourne University, has been chosen, *inamptu*

ly, has been investigating the cause of death from snake bites. He found the blood of the victim in all cases dark, very fluid, without any tendency to coagulation on exposure, and containing a large number of foreign cells which, under the microscope, were seen to contain nuclei. He concluded that when the person is bitten, molecules of living germinant matter are thrown off, which speedily grow into cells and multiply with astonishing rapidity. This sudden increase takes place at the expense of the oxygen absorbed into the blood at each respiration; hence the gradual decrease and ultimate extinction of combustion and chemical life.

—The New Orleans Crescent assails Edwin Booth's conception of the character of Hamlet as let as radically false. It says that Mr. Booth's Hamlet is based on Goethe's famous criticism of the character in "Wilhelm Meister," and that this is entirely opposed to a true reading of the text. Goethe and Booth have, however,

—In a recent sermon in London, Dean Stanley said that explorations were to be made in Jerusalem by digging, to discover some of the ancient monuments. One of these is the Holy Sepulchre, around the present assumed location of which doubt is thrown. Another is the catacomb containing the tombs of David and the Kings of Judah, the prototype of the royal tombs of the modern world. Apart from anything that might be found in the tombs, it is a discovery would be of an immense value as fixing the position of the "City of David." The last time it was seen was when Herod the

Great broke into it in search of treasure, but there could be no reasonable doubt (the Dean thinks) that it was still buried beneath the rubbish and still recoverable. Men to proceed with the work are, on the spot.

—The recent visit of Lord Clarendon to Italy has attracted much attention. Several of the French journals pretend that he is charged with a mission from the English Government, and that it is to try to bring about a understanding between Rome and Italy. Some of them affirm that at Florence he strongly advised the ministers and the leading politicians to adopt a moderate policy towards

—Letters from Rome, of December 24, assert that a concentration of Garibaldians has been noticed within the last few days at Aquapendente, and that the Pontifical officer commanding the military district of Viterbo has received orders to send reinforcements to the frontier to repel any attempt at invasion.











